

January 2, 1968

Visit of Levi Eshkol  
Prime Minister of Israel  
January 7-8, 1968

The U.S.S. Liberty Claims

DISCUSSION:

Immediately following the Liberty incident last summer, the Israeli Government expressed its regret and informed us that it was "prepared to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage."

On December 29, 1967 the United States Embassy at Tel Aviv presented to the Israeli Government claims amounting to approximately \$3.3 million on behalf of the families of 34 crew members killed in the Israeli attack against the U.S.S. Liberty on June 8, 1967. We will subsequently be presenting additional claims to the Government of Israel including claims for personal injuries caused to members of the crew and for property damage to the Liberty. We have asked the Israelis to pay the death claims first, since there may be some delay in gathering evidence on the extent of damage in other cases, particularly in the personal injury cases.

U.S. POSITION:

If Prime Minister Eshkol questions the amount of the first U.S. claims or raises any other questions about them, we recommend that you advise him to have appropriate officials of his Government discuss these issues with the Department of State.

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GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals  
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Claims against Israel due to the U.S.S.R. Liberty incident discussed in preparation for Prime Minister Eshkol's U.S. visit.  
White House, 2 Jan. 1968. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349209497/GDCS?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDCS&xid=4d75dba5&pg=1](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349209497/GDCS?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDCS&xid=4d75dba5&pg=1). Accessed 17 Apr. 2022.